



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

PUERTO RICAN PREDATOR FOUND GUILTY ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

Sentencing scheduled for Dec. 19, 2005

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced that United States citizen Juan Ramon Garced-Ortiz, 29, was found guilty of violations to 18 United States Code (USC), Section 2252 and 2253—possession of child pornography. His sentence is scheduled for Dec. 19, 2005 at the United States District Court of Puerto Rico.

The guilty verdict of Garced-Ortiz was a result of an ICE child pornography investigation that began in Nov. 2002 when ICE's Cyber Crime Center received an investigative referral from the Interpol.

Garced-Ortiz was identified as one of the subjects of the investigation. On Feb. 22, 2004, ICE agents conducted a search of Garced-Ortiz' residence and seized two desktop computers. A forensic analysis of the seized computers revealed over 100 images depicting child pornography. Garced-Ortiz was arrested by ICE agents on March 26, 2004.

"We will find, apprehend and prosecute those who abuse our children and endanger their lives and well-being," said Lydia St. John-Mellado, acting special agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in San Juan. "We will continue to build upon our strong partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office here to ensure that those who exploit our children are brought to justice."

Garced-Ortiz' arrest was part of a nationwide initiative known as Operation Predator. Operation Predator protects our children from sexual predators, including those who travel across continents to have sex with minors. Internet child pornographers and criminal alien sex offenders and child traffickers are also a priority for ICE. Since the initiative was launched in July of 2003, there have been more than 6,000 individuals arrested nationwide.

ICE encourages anyone who wants to report suspicious activity of suspected child predators and suspicious activity through our toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.